Cas	e 3:08-cv-00781-BEN-WMC Documen	t 1 Filed 04	1/29/2008	Page 1 of 13				
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8	Audiney for Flamium, ESTATE OF GERARDO VALENTINEZ							
9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA							
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11								
12	THE ESTATE OF GERARDO VALENTINEZ, by its personal) Case I	No.	•				
	representative GLORIA SERRANO OLIV VALENTINEZ, and SKYE	COMPLAINT FOR:						
13	VALENTINEZ, an individual and minor,) (1)	Bivens AC FORCE	TION: EXCESSIVE				
14	by and through her guardian ad litem, ANGELA RUIZ,)) (2)		TION: WRONGFUL				
15	,) (2)	DEATH	TION. WRONGFOL				
16	Plaintiffs, v.) (3)	RIGHT OF	FASSOCIATION				
17	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and) (4)	WRONGF	UL DEATH				
18	DOES 1-20, INCLUSIVE,)	CCP 377.6	50				
19	Defendants.) (5)		E TO PROPERLY GATE COMPLAINT				
20)) (6)		AND BATTERY				
21)						
22) (7))		DNAL INFLICTION OF NAL DISTRESS				
23) (8)	NEGLIGE	NCE				
24) (9)	NEGLIGE	NT INFLICTION OF				
25)		NAL DISTRESS				
26) JURY	TRIAL IS I	HEREBY DEMANDED				
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COME NOW, the ESTATE OF GERARDO VALENTINEZ, through its personal representative, Gloria Serrano Oliv Valentinez, by its attorney of record, Guadalupe Valencia and SKYE VALENTINEZ, an individual and minor, through her guardian ad litem Angela Ruiz, by her attorney of record, Eugene G. Iredale and allege and complain as follows:

I. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. Jurisdiction is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 28 U.S.C. §1346(b)(1), et. seq.
- This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the pendent state law claims under 2. 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 3. Plaintiff's claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act was timely filed on September 15, 2007. By operation of law, the claim is now deemed to have been denied.
- Venue is proper in the Southern District of California because the acts or omissions 4. which form the basis of the Plaintiff's claims occurred in San Diego, California.
- 5. The matter in controversy exceeds, exclusive of interest and costs, the sum or value of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$150,000.00) DOLLARS.
- 6. At all times relevant to this complaint, Plaintiffs were individuals residing in San Diego County, California.
- 7. At all times relevant to this complaint, the Department of Homeland Security was a federal agency of defendant UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and was operating in San Diego County, California.
- 8. Plaintiffs is truly ignorant of the true names and capacities of DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and/or is truly ignorant of the facts giving rise to their liability and will amend this complaint once their identities have been ascertained as well as the facts giving rise to their liability.
 - 9. These defendants were agents, servants and employees of each other of the other

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named defendants and were acting at all times within the full course and scope of their agency and employment, with the full knowledge and consent, either expressed or implied, of their principal and/or employer and each of the other named defendants and each of the defendants had approved or ratified the actions of the other defendants thereby making the currently named defendants herein liable for the acts and/or omissions of their agents, servants and/or employees.

II. **FACTS**

- Plaintiffs reallege all prior paragraphs of this complaint and incorporate the same 10. herein by this reference as if those paragraphs were set forth in full herein.
- On March 27, 2007, Mr. Valentinez was detained after crossing the border into the 11. United States at San Ysidro.
- 12. At one point, there were four or five officers employed by DHS on top of Mr. Valentinez.
- 13. During the arrest, one officer, DOE 1, jumped on Mr. Valentinez' back and got him in a headlock.
 - DOE 1 heard Mr. Valentinez gag as though he could not breath. 14.
- 15. This same officer then placed his right boot on Mr. Valentinez's neck near his chin, and pushed down on it hard.
- 16. The more Mr. Valentinez struggled to get the weight off of his back, the more pressure the DOE 1 put on him.
- 17. Doe 1 then moved his foot from Mr. Valentinez's neck. Another agent, Doe 2, then placed her foot on Mr. Valentinez's neck while Doe 1 put his knee on Mr. Valentinez's head.
- 18. Doe 3 then used a pressure point compliance in which he applied pressure under Mr. Valentinez' jaw area.
 - 19. At this point, Mr. Valentinez stopped breathing and moving.
- 20. According to the defendants, Mr. Valentinez was unconscious and "you could see his eyes roll back. After that he totally just went limp."

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FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Excessive Force: Bivens Action [Against Defendants DOES 1 through 20]

- 37. Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations contained in paragraphs one through thirty-five (35) by reference.
- 38. This cause of action is based upon *Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narotic Agents* 403 U.S. 388 (1971).
- 39. Defendants deprived Mr. Valentinez of his Fourth Amendment right to be free of excessive force.
- 40. The conduct alleged herein caused Plaintiff to be deprived of his civil rights that are protected under the United States Constitution which has also legally, proximately, foreseeably and actually caused Plaintiff to suffer emotional distress, pain and suffering, damage to reputation and further damages according to proof at the time of trial.
- 41. The conduct alleged herein also amounts to oppression, fraud or malice under federal law; justifying the award of exemplary damages against defendants in an amount according to proof at the time of trial in order to deter the defendant from engaging in similar conduct and to make an example by way of monetary punishment. Plaintiff is also entitled to attorney fees and costs of suit herein.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Wrongful Death: *Bivens* Action [Against Defendants DOES 1 through 20]

- 42. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegation of paragraphs one through forty-one (41).
- 43. Defendants and DOES 1-20, inclusive, acting under color of state law, committed wrongful acts which proximately caused the death of Gerardo Valentinez. Specifically, the defendants and DOES 1-20, inclusive, deprived Gerardo Valentinez of his rights under the United States Constitution to be free from the use of excessive force by law enforcement and punishment without due process.

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- 44. These acts resulted in the death of Gerardo Valentinez.
- 45. By these acts, the defendants violated Gerardo Valentinez' constitutional rights to be free from excessive force, punishment without due process of law, cruel and unusual punishment, and all rights guaranteed under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments.
- 46. The officers used excessive force as alleged above against Gerardo Valentinez, with a purpose to cause harm that is unrelated to the legitimate use of force. The force was used to make Gerardo Valentinez suffer and to punish him. The force used was unreasonable and performed with a deliberate indifference to the safety and welfare of Gerardo Valentinez.
- 47. The deprivation of the rights alleged above has destroyed the Constitutional rights of SKYE VALENTINEZ to the familial love, society and companionship of her father Gerardo Valentinez protected by the substantive due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- 48. The conduct alleged herein violated Gerardo Valentinez' rights alleged above thereby resulting in a deprivation of Plaintiffss' rights alleged above which has legally, proximately, foreseeably and actually caused Plaintiffs to suffer emotional distress, pain and suffering, and further general and special damages according to proof at the time of trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Right of Association By Plaintiff SKYE VALENTINEZ against all defendants]

- 49. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegation of paragraphs one through fortyeight (48).
- Defendants and DOES 1-20, inclusive, acting under color of state law, deprived 50. Gerardo Valentinez of his rights under the United States Constitution to be free from the use of excessive force by law enforcement and punishment without due process.
- By these acts, the defendants violated Gerardo Valentinez' constitutional rights to 51. be free from excessive force, punishment without due process of law, cruel and unusual punishment, and all rights guaranteed under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments. The

1	improper and unjustified use of deadly force used was unreasonable and excessive and performed					
2	with a deliberate indifference to the safety and welfare of Gerardo Valentinez.					
3	52. The deprivation of the rights alleged above has destroyed the Constitutional rights					
4	of his daughter SKYE VALENTINEZ to the familial love, society and companionship of her					
5	father which is protected by the substantive due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.					
6	53. The conduct alleged herein violated Gerardo Valentinez' rights alleged above					
7	thereby resulting in a deprivation of plaintiffs' rights alleged above which has legally,					
8	proximately, foreseeably and actually caused Plaintiffss to suffer emotional distress, pain and					
9	suffering, and further damages according to proof at the time of trial.					
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11	FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Wrongful Death: CCP 377.60					
12	[Against Defendants DOES 1 through 20]					
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14	54. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegation of paragraphs one through fifty-					
15	three (53).					
16	55. Mr. Valentinez' death was caused, in whole or part, by the conduct of the					
17	defendants.					
18	56. Defendants were negligent or deliberately indifferent in causing Mr. Valentinez'					
19	death.					
20	57. Mr. Valentinez is survived by his child, Skye Valentinez.					
21	58. Monetary damages have resulted from Mr. Valentinez' death including but not					
22	limited to loss of support, services, lost prospect of inheritance, medical and funeral expenses and					
23	interest from the date of Mr. Valentinez' death.					
24	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION					
25	(Constitutionally Inadequate System of Investigation of Complaints by Citizens of Wrongdoing)					
26	[Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 20]					
27	50 Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of paragraphs one through fifty-					

- 60. Officials of the Department of Homeland Security, acting under color of law, have subjected plaintiff and other persons similarly situated to a pattern of conduct consisting of continuing, widespread and persistent pattern of unconstitutional misconduct.
 - 61. Defendants have failed to properly investigate complaints of excessive force.
- 62. Defendants have a widespread history of ratifying use of excessive force by failing to conduct appropriate investigations into police misconduct.
- 63. Defendants knew and/or should have known that officers were violating peoples' constitutional rights by using excessive force.
- 64. Faced with such information, Defendants refused to investigate the matter and/or took no remedial steps or action against the Homeland Security agents.
- 65. There has been an official policy of acquiescence in the wrongful conduct.

 Defendants failed to promulgate corrective policies and regulations in the face of repeated

 Constitutional violations
- 66. As a result of the Defendants' historical failure to properly investigate complaints of police misconduct Defendants were deliberately indifferent to the needs of Plaintiff. The failure to investigate was the moving force behind the use of force on the Plaintiff and the resulting pain and suffering.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION Assault and Battery [Against All Defendants and DOES 1-20]

- 67. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of paragraphs one through sixty-six (66).
- 68. The Defendants, and each of them, acted with an intent to cause harmful or offensive contact with the person of Plaintiff and the intended harmful or offensive contact did in fact occur.
 - 69. The harmful or offensive contact was not privileged nor consented to and was

excessive, unreasonable and done with deliberate indifference to the rights and safety of Plaintiff and was done with the intent to inflict punishment, above and beyond the reason for using the force in the first place.

- 70. As a result of the defendants' intent to cause harmful or offensive contact with the person of Plaintiff and the fact that the intended harmful or offensive contact did in fact occur, Plaintiff has suffered damages according to proof at the time of trial. Said damages are currently in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this court and include general and special damages according to proof at the time of trial.
- 71. The conduct of Defendants also amounts to oppression, fraud or malice under federal law and punitive damages should be assessed against each defendant for the purpose of punishment and for the sake of example.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress [Against All Defendants and DOES 1-20]

- 72. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of paragraphs one through seventy-one (71).
- 73. By engaging in the acts alleged herein, the defendants engaged in outrageous conduct with an intent to or a reckless disregard of the probability of causing Plaintiffs to suffer emotional distress.
- 74. As a direct, proximate and foreseeable result, Plaintiffs suffered severe emotional distress and the outrageous conduct was the cause of the emotional distress suffered by Plaintiffs.
- 75. The conduct of defendants also amounts to oppression, fraud or malice under federal law and punitive damages should be assessed against each defendant for the purpose of punishment and for the sake of example.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION Negligence [Against All Defendants and DOES 1-20]

76. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of paragraphs one through

(619) 232-2158

105 West F St., Third Floor San Diego, CA 92101

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO DIVISION

150345 -- MB

April 29, 2008 15:57:36

Civ Fil Non-Pris

USAD #.: 08CV0781 CIVIL FILING

Judge..: ROGER T BENITEZ

Amount.:

\$350.00 CK

Check#.: BC1662

Total-> \$350.00

FROM: ESTATE OF GERARDO

VALENTINEZ AND SKYE VALENTINEZ

VS US

PB 04/29/08

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			United States 684 Period and DOES 1-20, inclusive 3: 59 County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (INUSTRUMINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE		
Estate of Ge	erardo Valentinez and	United Sta			
Skye Valenti	inez				
	of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego	County of Res			
(E	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	NOTE.			
	•	INOTE:	B KANTINVOLVED.		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	e, Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If I	KNOWN) TOB CV U 7 FBUT BEN WMC		
Eugene G. Iredale; 105	West F Street, 4th Fl.; (619) 233-1525	5 U.S. Attorn	ueh, a out of the state of the		
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP (For Diversity Case	P OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff es Only) and One Box for Defendant)		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 	Citizen of This State	PTF DEF 1 0 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 0 4 0 4		
	-	Ciri-an at A-adhar State	of Business in This State 1 2 0 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 0 5 0 5		
☑ 2 U.S. Government Defendant			Citizen of Another State 2 2 1ncorporated and Principal Place U 3 U 3 of Business In Another State		
	•	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation 6 6 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	r oreign Country			
	Thinker Color Control Tourist Color	PIFORFEITURE/PEN	VAUTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES		
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR	1_ "	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 400 State Reapportionment		
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractic				
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability		SC 881		
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 460 Deportation □ 820 Copyrights □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and		
& Enforcement of Judgmen 151 Medicare Act	Slander Slander 336 Asbestos Persona lnjury Product	d ☐ 640 R.R. & Truck ☐ 650 Airline Regs.	820 Copyrights 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations		
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability Liability	☐ 660 Occupational	☐ 840 Trademark ☐ 480 Consumer Credit		
Student Loans	340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER		490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service		
(Excl. Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud Liability ☐ 371 Truth in Lending	690 Other	SAUGURITY SO SOCIAL SECURITY SECURITY SOCIAL SECURITY		
of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 380 Other Personal	710 Fair Labor Stand	dards		
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage Product Liability ☐ 385 Property Damage		862 Black Lung (923) 875 Customer Challenge 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 12 USC 3410		
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability		730 Labor/Mgint. Rep	porting 3 864 SSID Title XVI 990 Other Statutory Actions		
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	& Disclosure Act	t □ 865 RSI (405(g)) □ 891 Agricultural Acts		
■ REAL PROPERTY © 210 Land Condemnation	PRISONER PETITIO 441 Voting D 510 Motions to Vacat				
210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure	442 Employment Sentence	790 Empl. Ret. Inc.	or Defendant) September 2015 On Position Act On Position Act		
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	Security Act	871 IRS—Third Party 895 Freedom of Information		
240 Torts to Land245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations 530 General 553 Death Penalty	IMMIGRATIO	26 USC 7609 Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination		
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	Employment	463 Habeas Corpus -	to Justice 950 Constitutionality of		
	Other 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - 555 Prison Condition	Alien Detainee 465 Other Immigration			
	★ 440 Other Civil Rights	Actions			
V. ORIGIN (Place	an "X" in One Box Only)		Appeal to Distric		
🕱 1 Original 🗂 2 R		J 4 Reinstated or ☐ 5 Reopened	another district Litigation Magistrate		
	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you a Fourth and Fourteenth Amendm		(specify) Judgment		
VI. CAUSE OF ACT	ION Print description of course				
			tree from excessive force, deprivation of due proces		
VII. REQUESTED IN	N CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: ✓ Yes ✓ No		
COMPLAINT:			COL DESIGNATION BO 140 BO 140		
VIII. RELATED CAS	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE	SIGNAPORE OF A	TSORNEY OF RECORD			
04/29/2008					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	da				
RECEIPT # 150345	AMOUNT \$350 — APPLYING IFP	j	JUDGE MAG. JUDGE		